

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A method for mediating transactions between firms, comprising:
receiving registration demands from purchasing firms and supplier firms, and
registering each firm's information;

providing a privilege for the purchasing firms and the supplier firms to access
quality calculation programs;

receiving from each purchasing firm and registering, at least product type
information, requested quantity, and requested delivery date of products or parts that
the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, and an index for the capability for achieving
quality for the supplied product that a supplier firm should have in order to supply a
product of a quality level requested by the purchasing firm, that is calculated using
the quality calculation programs;

receiving from each supplier firm and registering, the information that relates
to products or parts that each supplier firm wishes to supply, and an index for the
capability for achieving quality for the supplied product of the production plant of
each supplier firm, that is calculated using the quality calculation programs;

selecting supplier firms having the products or parts that can be supplied and
an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product of the
production plant of each supplier firm, that satisfy product type information and

requested quantity of products or parts that the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, and an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product that the supplier firm should have in order to supply a product of a quality level requested by the purchasing firm;

providing at least product type information, requested quantity, and requested delivery date of products or parts that the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, to selected supplier firms; and

providing to the purchasing firm, the information that relates to the selected supplier firm that communicates a desire to transact with the purchasing firm, and products or parts that the supplier firm wishes to supply.

16. (New) A method for mediating transactions between firms, comprising:
receiving registration demands from purchasing firms and supplier firms, and registering each firm's information;

receiving from each purchasing firm and registering, at least product type information, requested quantity, and requested delivery date of products or parts that the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, and information needed to calculate an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product that a supplier firm should have in order to supply a product of a quality level requested by the purchasing firm;

receiving from each supplier firm and registering, the information that relates to products or parts that each supplier firm wishes to supply, and information needed to calculate an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product of the production plant of each supplier firm;

calculating an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product that a supplier firm should have in order to supply a product of a quality level requested by the purchasing firm, using quality calculation programs based on the information received from the purchasing firm;

calculating an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product of the production plant of each supplier firm, using quality calculation programs based on the information received from the supplier firm;

selecting supplier firms having the products or parts that can be supplied and an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product of the production plant of each supplier firm, that satisfy product type information and requested quantity of products or parts that the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, and an index for the capability for achieving quality for the supplied product that the supplier firm should have in order to supply a product of a quality level requested by the purchasing firm;

providing at least product type information, requested quantity, and requested delivery date of products or parts that the purchasing firm hopes for purchase, to selected supplier firms; and

providing to the purchasing firm, the information that relates to the selected supplier firm that communicates a desire to transact with the purchasing firm, and products or parts that the supplier firm wishes to supply.

17. (New) A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 15, wherein one way for a firm registered on the inter-firm transaction mediation web site to obtain access privileges for the quality calculation programs is

to have the quality calculation programs downloaded from the inter-firm transaction mediation web site so that they can be used, and another method is to allow the quality calculation programs to be used from a web page of the inter-firm transaction mediation web site.